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ABSTRACT

This document contains factsheets and news releases which cite findings from a national survey of 1,985 high achieving high school students. Factsheets describe the Who's Who Among American High School Students recognition and service program for high school students and explain the Who's Who survey. A summary report of this eighteenth annual survey gives a profile of respondents and presents students' views on education, politics, drugs and alcohol, social issues, college career plans, sexual issues, religion, and teenage suicide. A highlights paper discusses respondents' views on education; college plans; the personal issues of suicide, family, friendship, sex, and drug and alcohol use; the social issues of abortion and sex education; and politics. Three news releases are included which focus on students' views concerning drugs and alcohol, students' ratings of President Reagan and their dissatisfaction with his performance in foreign policy, and students' recommendations on how to raise the nation's level of academic achievement through increased parental involvement and periodic evaluations of teachers and school administrators. (NB)

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# 18TH ANNUAL SURVEY OF HIGH ACHIEVERS

## ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS FROM THE NATION'S HIGH ACHIEVING TEENS

CG 020395

WHO'S WHO AMONG AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS®

721 N. McKinley Road • Lake Forest, Illinois 60045 • (312) 295-6650

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# HIGHLIGHTS

## EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SURVEY OF HIGH ACHIEVERS

## WHO'S WHO AMONG AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Following are highlights from the Eighteenth Annual Survey of High Achievers covering teens' opinions on education, personal issues, social issues and government.

### EDUCATION

- Periodic evaluation of teachers was the most cited factor to help raise the national level of academic achievement (69%). Other solutions cited are: periodic evaluation of school administrators (60%), raising teacher qualification standards (58%) and more parental involvement (58%). In 1986, only 47% of students felt more parental involvement would help to raise the national level of academic achievement.

- 63 percent of students surveyed feel students should be required to maintain a "C" average or better in all classes to participate in extracurricular activities. 64 percent believe students should be allowed a probationary period to raise their grades before being denied participation. Only 18 percent of students believe no-pass, no-play rules will result in certain students receiving preferential treatment in order to qualify for participation.

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## COLLEGE PLANS

- 96 percent of Who's Who students plan to attend college. Their chosen fields of study vary according to sex. Among males, 33 percent will study engineering/sciences, 16 percent will study business and 13 percent will study medicine. Business is the number one field of study for females (21%), with medicine their second choice (18%). 15 percent of females are undecided. And, the science gender gap shows little sign of narrowing; only 9 percent of females will study engineering/sciences.

## PERSONAL ISSUES

### Suicide

- A feeling of personal worthlessness (84%), feeling of isolation and loneliness (81%) and pressure to achieve (75%) were the three most cited reasons for teen suicide. Other reasons cited by a majority of teens were: fear of failure; lack of communication between teens and parents; drug and alcohol use; actual failure; lack of attention from parents and lack of stability in the family.

- Who's Who students believe teen suicide can most effectively be prevented through: suicide awareness programs for teens and parents in schools, churches and other groups (67%); suicide/crisis prevention hotlines (65%) and availability of private counseling in schools (59%).

- 48 percent know a young person who has tried to commit or has committed suicide. In 1986, 46 percent stated they knew such a person and 40 percent said so in 1985. 33 percent have considered suicide, an increase of two percent since 1986 (28 percent had considered suicide in 1985.) Only three percent state that they have tried committing suicide, a figure which has remained constant since Who's Who began tracking teens' attitudes toward suicide.

### Family

- 79 percent of high achievers state their natural parents are married to each other. Another 67 percent note their mothers are employed outside the home, an increase of three percent since 1986. As the teens were growing up, their parents spoke openly and honestly with them about alcohol (64%), drugs (56%) and sex (45%). 42 percent of teens feel they can ask their parents anything about sex, though 39% would rather not discuss sex with their parents.

### Friendship

- Who teens confide in most varies by sex, though both males and females named mom as their second choice. Females confide most in their female friends (49%), their mother (39%) and their boyfriend (20%). Males confide most in their male friends (35), their mother (30%) and their father (16%). Only eight percent of females confide most in their father. Who's Who teens are least likely to confide most in a social worker, a choice listed by less than one percent of both males and females. Guidance counselors fare only slightly better, named by 3 percent of males and two percent of females.

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- Friends influence a high-achiever's attitudes toward: social activities (63%) and appearance (57%). No other issue was cited as being influenced by friends by a majority of teens surveyed. Friends have the least influence on teens in regard to religion (7%), politics (5%) and parents (11%).

- The characteristics teens value most in friends are: reliability (86%); honesty (82%) and a good sense of humor (79%). Other characteristics cited by a majority of teens were: sensitivity to others' feelings; mutual interests and intelligence. Separately, females value reliability first (90%), then honesty (86%) and sensitivity (83%). Males value reliability (79%), humor (74%) and honesty (72%). Females place a higher value on all characteristics than males do except for intelligence (51% female, 53% male), attractiveness (10% female, 17% male) and popularity (5% female, 11% male).

- Teens would not want to be friends with someone who lies (82%), steals (74%) or takes drugs (68%). In 1986, 64 percent of teens stated they would not want to be friends with someone who takes drugs. Other characteristics that will lose you friends with the majority of high achieving teens are: lack of loyalty (67%) and selfishness (58%). Teens don't seem to care if you are unattractive (3%), or of a different religion or race (1% each). More than 1/4 of teens (28%) won't want to be your friend if you drink.

- Most teens (86%) state they make friends easily. Teens who don't make friends easily feel it is because they are afraid others won't like them (45%), they don't have much in common with other teens (33%) or they simply don't know (28%). Only six percent of teens surveyed feel they don't need friends.

Sex

- 25 percent of high achievers have had sexual intercourse, an increase of two percent since last year. Of females who have had sex, 24 percent wish they hadn't; only 10 percent of males who have had sex regret it. 43 percent of sexually active high achievers have used a birth control method every time they have had sex. 16 percent of teens who have had sex have never used birth control.

- Teens do not believe sex is an expected part of a steady romantic relationship, though not as strongly as in 1986 or 1985. This year, 61 percent of students believe sex is not expected. 63 percent said so in 1986; 82 percent said so in 1985. The majority (65%) of high achievers who have gone steady did not feel pressured to have sex. Of those who have felt pressure to have sex, males and females state different reasons. 89 percent of females state the pressure to have sex came from their boyfriend; 22 percent feel it came from their friends and 15 percent feel it came from the media. 72 percent of males feel the pressure to have sex came from their friends, 38 percent say the pressure came from their girlfriend, 15 percent felt pressured by the media.

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Drug/Alcohol Use

- 82 percent or more of students surveyed have never tried: marijuana (82%), cocaine (95%), crack (96%), PCP (96%), LSD (95%), speed (91%) and downers (95%). 31 percent of high achievers have never tried alcohol; 28 percent have tried alcohol but don't drink now. Only three percent of students state they drink once a week or more; 13 percent state they drink more than once a month.

- 77 percent of Who's Who students note that alcohol is a regular part of many students' weekend activities and that alcohol is very common at parties given by fellow students (74%). Only 32 percent of the students surveyed feel that drugs are a regular part of many students' weekend activities, and 56 percent of students state that drugs are common only with a certain group of students.

- 70 percent of the teens state that their parents disapprove of teens drinking and 34 percent say their parents forbid them to drink. In 1986, 66 percent of teens stated that their parents disapproved of teens drinking..

SOCIAL ISSUES

Abortion

- 27 percent of students don't approve of abortion under any circumstances, an increase of four percent since 1986. But, a plurality of students show some approval of abortion. 23 percent believe abortion should be an option whenever a woman feels it is in her best interest; 43 percent believe it is appropriate in cases of rape, incest or when the mother's life is endangered and 17 percent believe abortion should be an option for women during the first trimester of pregnancy. 30 percent of students state they would consider abortion as an option were they to become involved in an unwanted pregnancy.

Sex Education

- A majority of females surveyed (59%) believe values and morals discussion in sex education classes would be valuable in helping teens to decide whether or not to have sex. Only 47 percent of males believe values and morals discussions in school would be helpful. 40 percent of students believe values and morals instruction should come from a teen's parents/guardians.

- Five percent of black students note that their school dispenses contraceptives; less than one percent of white students attend a school which dispenses contraceptives. Whether teens approve of schools dispensing contraceptives depends on the type of school they attend. 52 percent of public school students approve; 28 percent of private school students approve and 33 percent of parochial school students approve of schools dispensing contraceptives. But, while public school students approve of such a service, only 21 percent would take advantage of it. Parochial and private school students would be much less likely to use such a service: 10 percent of private school students and 12 percent of parochial school students.

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## POLITICS

- The majority of students rate President Reagan's job performance good to excellent in all areas except foreign policy. The ratings for individual areas are much lower than in previous years, however. Following is a breakdown of the individual approval ratings the President received from Who's Who teens this year and last year:

| Rated area of performance | 1987 | 1986 |
|---|---|---|
| Economy | | |
| Excellent | 13% | 19% |
| Good | 53% | 59% |
| Below Average | 20% | 13% |
| Poor | 8% | 5% |
| Foreign Policy | | |
| Excellent | 9% | 27% |
| Good | 33% | 44% |
| Below Average | 32% | 17% |
| Poor | 20% | 8% |
| Domestic Policy | | |
| Excellent | 9% | 14% |
| Good | 55% | 59% |
| Below Average | 22% | 16% |
| Poor | 7% | 6% |
| Defense | | |
| Excellent | 25% | 36% |
| Good | 40% | 37% |
| Below Average | 15% | 13% |
| Poor | 14% | 10% |
| Education | | |
| Excellent | 9% | 10% |
| Good | 42% | 45% |
| Below Average | 29% | 29% |
| Poor | 14% | 12% |
| Politics | | |
| Excellent | 15% | 27% |
| Good | 49% | 55% |
| Below Average | 19% | 9% |
| Poor | 10% | 4% |

- If the Presidential election were held today, Who's Who students would vote: Republican (42%), Democratic (30%), Independent (18%). Three percent would not vote even if eligible. In 1986, 49 percent would have voted Republican, 25 percent Democratic and 16 percent Independent. 54 percent of the students surveyed will be eligible to vote in 1988.

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- Who's Who students continue to favor an arms limitation agreement with the Soviet Union, and their trust of the Soviets has increased again. 85 percent favor an arms limitation agreement between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. 39 percent believe the Soviets would honor such an agreement, an increase of four percent since 1986 and 12 percent since 1985. Sadly, the students trust in the U.S. has decreased. 59 percent believe the U.S. would honor an arms agreement; 67 percent felt the U.S. would honor an agreement in 1986.

- 58 percent of students feel the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. should ban all use and production of nuclear arms. Only 25 percent feel American security would be reduced if we were to produce fewer nuclear weapons. The majority of students surveyed (55%) believe the federal government's top priority in foreign affairs should be to develop a working arms agreement. Only 23 percent believe the U.S. should continue to work at removing the communist government in Nicaragua.

- 75 percent of Who's Who students believe the U.S. should not support governments which oppose communism yet violate American conceptions of human rights.

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# HIGH ACHIEVERS DON'T GET HIGH

LAKE FOREST, IL--Today's high-achieving high school students don't drink and they don't do drugs, according to the results of the most recent Survey of High Achievers, conducted by Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Conducted in the spring of 1987, the survey revealed that 82 percent of high-achieving students surveyed have either never tried marijuana, or have tried it but don't use it now. Ninety-six percent of Who's Who students have never used "crack" or angel dust, 95 percent have never used LSD/hallucinogens and 91 percent have never used amphetamines.

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These high achievers don't drink either, though they say their peers do. Thirty-one percent of the teens surveyed have never used alcohol and 28 percent have tried but don't use alcohol now. However, 77 percent of the students surveyed say that alcohol is a regular part of many students' weekend activities, and, according to 74 percent of the students, alcohol is very common at parties given by fellow students. Although it seems that their peers are drinking, they aren't drinking at school. Sixty-one percent of Who's Who students state that there is little alcohol use during school hours. Sixty-six percent said so in 1986.

Parental influence may be a sobering factor among high-achieving students. Seventy percent of the teens surveyed state that their parents disapprove of teen drinking. And, 64 percent said that their parents have talked openly and honestly with them about alcohol; 56 percent have talked with their parents about drugs.

Although some high achievers are engaging in sexual intercourse (25%), more are using birth control methods than last year (43%). Forty-six percent of the surveyed students approve of schools dispensing contraceptives, saying that the availability of contraceptives will help decrease the number of teen pregnancies. And, 55 percent of Who's Who teens believe values and morals discussion in school sex education classes would help teens decide whether or not to have sex.

Parents seem to play a less influential role in teens' sex education. Only 42 percent of the high achievers feel they can ask their parents anything about sex and their parents will be open and honest. Thirty-eight percent have discussed marriage/family as they relate to sex with their parents.

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Suicide is still a prevalent problem among teenagers. According to the survey results, high achievers feel pressure to achieve (75%); feelings of isolation and loneliness (81%) and feelings of personal worthlessness (84%) are the three most important factors contributing to teen suicide. Only 67 percent of the high achievers feel that suicide awareness programs will prevent teen suicide, compared to 71 percent last year and fewer students (65%) feel crisis prevention hotlines will help reduce teen suicides. Forty-eight percent of the surveyed students know of someone who has tried or has committed suicide. Thirty-five percent of the surveyed females and 27 percent of the males have considered suicide themselves

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# PRESIDENT REAGAN NOT IN WITH TEENS

LAKE FOREST, Illinois--President Reagan has lost popularity points with America's high-achieving high school students, according to results of the most recent Survey of High Achievers conducted by Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Conducted in the spring of 1987, the Eighteenth Annual Survey of High Achievers showed President Reagan's teen rating has slipped in every area. Who's Who students are particularly displeased with the President's performance in foreign policy. In 1986, 71 percent of students surveyed felt the President was doing a good-to-excellent job in foreign policy. This year, only nine percent of students believe his foreign policy performance is excellent while only 33 percent of students rate his foreign policy performance "good."

The number of students who rate the President's foreign policy performance as below average to poor has also increased. In 1986, only 22 percent of students ranked his performance below average to poor; that number has increased by 30 percent this year.

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The President's performance in domestic issues rated a little higher with teens, though lower than in years past. This year, 64 percent of teens surveyed rate the President good to excellent in domestic policy performance; 73 percent of students felt his performance in domestic issues was good to excellent in 1986.

Economically, the President fares little better. This year, 10 percent more students (28 %) rate the President's handling of the economy below average to poor, while 65 percent of students feel he is doing an excellent to good job with the economy. In 1986, 78 percent of students felt his economic policies were good to excellent.

In education and defense, the high achievers were more lenient on the President. Fifty-one percent of students rate his performance good to excellent regarding education; 55 percent of students surveyed rated his performance in education so in 1986. Regarding defense, the President's teen approval has slipped from 73 percent rating his performance good to excellent to 65 percent. And, 6 percent more students (29 %) believe his defense performance is below average to poor than did in 1986.

With Presidential elections around the corner, the President's performance in politics bears additional weight. Here, again, teens rank the President lower than they did last year. Since 1986, the Presidents good-to-excellent rating has slipped a full 28 percent to 64 percent of high achievers. And, 29 percent of students surveyed this year believe the President's political performance to be below average to poor. Only 13 percent of students rated the President below average to poor politically in 1986.

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Reflecting the President's overall lower scores is the fact that more students state they would vote Democratic if the 1988 elections were held today, though a plurality of students still favor the Republican party. Thirty percent of students would vote Democratic this year; only 25 percent would have voted Democratic in 1986. The number of students who would vote Republican has dropped seven percent to 42 percent of those surveyed. And, 18 percent of students would vote Independent. Also, 54 percent of the students surveyed will be eligible to vote in the 1988 Presidential Election.

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# PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT KEY TO STUDENTS' SUCCESS

LAKE FOREST, IL—America's high-achieving high school students call for more parental involvement to raise the nation's level of academic achievement, according to results of a survey recently released by Who's Who Among American High School Students.

The Eighteenth Annual Survey of High Achievers, conducted by Who's Who in the spring of 1987, shows 58 percent of high-achieving students surveyed believe that more parental involvement in their children's academic activities will raise the level of academic achievement in U.S. public schools. In 1986, only 47 percent of students felt that parental involvement was important in academic achievement.

According to the high-achieving students, the most important factor in raising the nation's level of academic achievement is periodic evaluations of teachers and school administrators. Sixty-nine percent of the students surveyed feel that public school teachers should be evaluated periodically; 60 percent believe school administrators should be evaluated as well.

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Reflecting the teens' high regard for parental involvement, 78 percent of the high achieving teens surveyed stated that their own parents impressed upon them the importance of a good education, helping them do well in school. The teens also stated that their parents encouraged them to get good grades (78%).

Obviously, these teens take education seriously. The students feel that a "C" or better should be maintained in all classes in order to participate in extracurricular activities (63%). But, they would give their peers a grace period before invoking a no-pass, no-play rule. Sixty-four percent of the high achievers surveyed believe that students should be allowed a probationary period to raise their grades before being denied participation.

Who's Who students are just as serious about their college education as they are about high school. Ninety-one percent of the students plan to attend college right away. The survey also revealed that the academic emphasis of a school is the most important consideration in selecting a college (47%), with scholarship availability (39%) the second most important factor.

The high achievers do not feel that our government has placed high enough priority on education, however. More than half (60%) feel that improving the education system should be one of the top three priorities of the federal government. This figure is up 21 percent from last year's 39 percent.

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FACT SHEET

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SURVEY OF HIGH ACHIEVERS

WHO'S WHO AMONG AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**What is the Who's Who survey?**

The largest annual independent sampling of opinions and attitudes of high school student leaders taken.

**Who participated?**

Of the 550,000 plus students selected to be featured in the current edition of Who's Who Among American High School Students, 5,000 were demographically selected and sent the survey form. The 1,985 students who returned their questionnaires formed the basis for this survey. All were members of the junior or senior class during the 1986-87 academic year. The survey was taken in the spring of 1987.

This is NOT a survey of the average high school student. THESE HIGH ACHIEVERS ARE AMONG TOMORROW'S LEADERS.

**Why was the survey taken?**

Who's Who Among American High School Students believes that in these rapidly changing times, it is important to recognize outstanding students and, therefore, encourage achievement. More significantly, Who's Who believes it is vital for the nation to know and understand their opinions and attitudes -- particularly since these achievers will be an important segment of the voting population.

Because of its contact with student leaders, it is the publishing company's belief that it is in a position to gather the opinions of top teens and, therefore, has a corporate responsibility to pursue this project.

- more -

The publishers regard this effort as an educational experiment. They are in no way attempting to promote or negate any political, moral or social philosophy; and they are not affiliated with, supported or subsidized by any political or social organization, firm or individual.

**How were these questions selected?**

Questions were developed to gather teen leaders' opinions on topics of continuing interest as well as topics which are currently of interest. The following organizations and individuals assisted in development of the survey questions:

THE WHITE HOUSE DRUG POLICY OFFICE: alcohol and drug abuse

DR. MARTIN E. MARTY, Professor of History of Modern Christianity, University of Chicago: religion

PROF. ALAN STOUDEMIRE, Psychiatry Section, Emory University Clinic, Atlanta: teen suicide

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, Office for Intellectual Freedom: censorship

PLANNED PARENTHOOD and the ILLINOIS RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE: sex, birth control and related issues

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS (PTA): education and related issues

All survey questions were reviewed by the Who's Who Committee on Ethics, Standards and Practices. A list of members is enclosed.

In addition, the final survey questionnaire was reviewed by Dr. Burleigh Gardner, chairman, Social Research, Inc.

**How were the answers tabulated?**

By computer, with breakdown for sex, race, type of school and type of community.

**What does the Survey cost?**

The Survey of High Achievers is provided free of charge to educators, libraries, government officials and non-profit organizations.

Others may order a copy of the complete results by sending $30.00 in check or money order to:

Who's Who Among American High School Students
Annual Survey of High Achievers
721 N. McKinley Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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WHO'S WHO AMONG AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

What's Who's Who?

Who's Who Among American High School Students is a recognition and service program for high school students. The elements of the program include:

- Annual publication of Who's Who Among American High School Students book
- College Referral Service
- Scholarship Program
- Grants-In-Aid program
- Who's Who Spokesteen Panel
- College-Bound Digest

Who's Who was created in 1967 to provide recognition on a national level for outstanding students in public, private and parochial high schools.

In addition, Who's Who is intended to serve as a reference work for institutions and groups interested in student achievement. It is distributed FREE to 15,000 participating high schools, interested colleges and public libraries each year. The reference value of the volumes was confirmed in a review by the American Library Association.

Is there any financial obligation attached to recognition in Who's Who?

No. There are no charges to students or sponsors contingent upon this recognition award. The vast majority of students featured in Who's Who do not purchase the publication, but do receive the recognition they have earned. Free copies of Who's Who are available to all participating high schools and youth organizations.

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**Who are these student leaders?**

The 550,000 students listed in the twenty-first annual Who's Who represent about 5 percent of all high school students enrolled during the 1986-87 academic year.

They represent nearly 22,000 public, private and parochial high schools in the nation. Ninety-nine percent have an "A" or "B" average.

**How are the students selected?**

Principals, guidance counselors and other faculty members of the 22,000 high schools are asked to recommend outstanding students for Who's Who. They select students who excel in academics, extracurricular activities, community service or athletics.

Additional students are nominated by youth organizations and by the publishing company for their high performance record in scholarship award contests and activities.

**How is biographical information obtained?**

Upon their nomination, students are sent a biographical data form. The data supplied by the students, if they meet Who's Who criteria, constitutes their listing in the book. An annual audit is made to ensure that the information supplied by students is accurate.

Students are identified in the book by name, high school, city and state. To insure privacy, no home addresses are printed, nor are they released at any time. Student lists are never sold.

**How much is awarded in scholarships?**

More than $900,000 has been committed to date by the publishing company's scholarship foundation. The foundation awards more than $100,000 each year through three scholarship programs.

**What is the Grants-In-Aid program?**

It was established in 1975 for the purpose of giving financial assistance to programs and projects designed to encourage student excellence.

To date, more than $400,000 has been distributed to youth organizations in need of financial assistance to continue programs on behalf of high school students.

**Who is on the Spokesteen Panel?**

Representative Who's Who students are selected every two years to speak to the media on behalf of their peers. They are chosen by returning a written questionnaire then being screened in telephone interviews.

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The Panel was established to assist media seeking to quote top teens and to assure the students of appropriate representation of their views.

**What is the College Referral Service?**

Through CRS, Who's Who notifies prospective employers, colleges and universities of a student's recognition. The purpose is to substantiate students' records of achievement. More than 100,000 referrals were made on behalf of Who's Who students in the 1986-87 academic year.

In a recent poll, more than 90 percent of college admissions directors surveyed noted CRS is "a valuable education service."

**What is the College-Bound Digest?**

It is a compilation of articles by prominent educators offering valuable advice to college-bound students. It is offered FREE to 22,000 high school guidance offices and principals.

**What is the Committee on Ethics, Standards & Practices?**

Who's Who brought together noted educators in 1978 to establish guidelines for evaluating student recognition programs. Standards were developed by the committee, which still serves in an advisory capacity to the publisher. A list of members is enclosed.

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To date, more than $400,000 has been distributed to youth organizations in need of financial assistance to continue programs on behalf of high school students.

**Who is on the Spokesteen Panel?**

Representative Who's Who students are selected every two years to speak to the media on behalf of their peers. They are chosen by returning a written questionnaire then being screened in telephone interviews.

- more -

The Panel was established to assist media seeking to quote top teens and to assure the students of appropriate representation of their views.

**What is the College Referral Service?**

Through CRS, Who's Who notifies prospective employers, colleges and universities of a student's recognition. The purpose is to substantiate students' records of achievement. More than 100,000 referrals were made on behalf of Who's Who students in the 1986-87 academic year.

In a recent poll, more than 90 percent of college admissions directors surveyed noted CRS is "a valuable education service."

**What is the College-Bound Digest?**

It is a compilation of articles by prominent educators offering valuable advice to college-bound students. It is offered FREE to 22,000 high school guidance offices and principals.

**What is the Committee on Ethics, Standards & Practices?**

Who's Who brought together noted educators in 1978 to establish guidelines for evaluating student recognition programs. Standards were developed by the committee, which still serves in an advisory capacity to the publisher. A list of members is enclosed.

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## COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, STANDARDS AND PRACTICES

Dr. Wesley Apker
Executive Director
Association of California
School Administrators
Sacramento, CA

James T. Barry
Associate Vice President
for College Relations
St. Ambrose College
Davenport, IA

Phyllis Blaunstein
Executive Director
National Association of
State Boards of Education
Alexandria, VA

Dr. Harold Crosby
Regents Professor
University of West Florida
Pensacola, FL

Dr. S. Norman Feingold
Honorary National Director
B'nai B'rith Career and
Counseling Services
President
National Career and Counseling
Services
Washington, DC

Charles Hilston
Executive Director
Association of Wisconsin
School Administrators
Madison, WI

Dr. Betty James
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Livingstone College
Salisbury, NC

Dr. John R. Lucy
Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction
Downers Grove Public Schools, Dist. 58
Downers Grove, IL

Dr. Paul Masem
Superintendent of Schools
Alexandria City Public Schools
Alexandria, VA

Dr. Edward J. Rachford
Superintendent
Homewood-Flossmoor Community
High School
Flossmoor, IL

Dr. Vincent Reed
Vice President for Communications
The Washington Post
Washington, DC

# SUMMARY
# WHO'S WHO AMONG AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
## Eighteenth Annual Survey of High Achievers
## Views on Education, Politics, Drugs and Alcohol, Social Issues, Teen Suicide

Sample Size ..... 1,985

## PROFILE

| | |
|---|---|
| Male | 31% |
| Female | 68% |
| 16 years old | 45% |
| 17 years old | 55% |
| 18 years old | 1% |
| Caucasian | 84% |
| Black | 5% |
| Other | 10% |
| Protestant | 37% |
| Catholic | 32% |
| Jewish | 2% |
| Other | 21% |
| None | 8% |
| Attend public school | 71% |
| Private school | 17% |
| Parochial school | 12% |
| "A" grade point average | 72% |
| "B" grade point average | 27% |
| Family income under $8,000 per year | 4% |
| $8,000 - $14,999 | 8% |
| $15,000 - $24,999 | 17% |
| $25,000 - $40,000 | 30% |
| More than $40,000 | 32% |
| Rural/small town | 50% |
| Suburban | 34% |
| Urban | 12% |
| Live in East/Northeast | 22% |
| Midwest | 29% |
| Southwest | 7% |
| South | 25% |
| Pacific/West | 16% |

## EDUCATION

**FACTORS WHICH STUDENT FEELS HELPED HIM/HER DO WELL IN SCHOOL:**

| | |
|---|---|
| My parents impressed upon me the importance of a good education to my future | 78% |
| My parents encouraged me to get good grades | 78% |
| There is a lot of love in my family | 58% |
| My parents have been supportive of my school performance no matter what my grades were | 55% |
| My parents have taken a great interest in my school work | 52% |
| My parents have taken a great interest in my extracurricular activities | 47% |
| My parents read to me as a child | 47% |
| I was encouraged to take music, dance or art lessons | 39% |
| My parents rewarded me for doing well | 35% |
| My parents pushed me to get good grades | 29% |
| In my home there is a lot of discussion of current events | 25% |
| My parents encouraged me to watch educational television programs | 19% |
| My parents punished me when I didn't get good grades | 10% |

**COURSES NOT AVAILABLE WHICH WOULD BE HELPFUL IN PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE:**

| | |
|---|---|
| College selection/preparation for college life | 52% |
| Personal finance | 31% |
| Comparative politics | 29% |
| Suicide prevention | 24% |
| Drug and alcohol abuse | 23% |
| Business management | 20% |
| Sex education | 19% |
| Comparative religions | 17% |
| Computer science | 12% |
| Community service | 12% |
| Family studies | 10% |
| Driver's education | 10% |
| Consumer education | 9% |
| Economics | 7% |
| Music | 3% |
| Art | 3% |
| Other | 14% |

**ATTITUDES TOWARD MINIMUM GRADE STANDARDS FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Students should be allowed a probationary period to raise their grade(s) before being denied participation | 64% |
| Students should be required to maintain a "C" average or better in all classes to participate | 63% |
| Each student's individual circumstances should be considered before he or she is denied participation | 47% |
| Students who do not meet the minimum grade standard should immediately be denied participation in activities | 31% |
| Students should only be required to maintain an overall average of "C" or better | 25% |
| Will result in certain students receiving preferential treatment from teachers and administrators in order to qualify for participation | 18% |

**ATTITUDES TOWARD GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Requirements for graduation at my school are appropriate | 64% |
| There are not enough elective courses | 38% |
| Standards for passing courses should be raised | 22% |
| More credits should be required for graduation | 15% |
| There are too many required courses | 14% |
| There are not enough required courses | 12% |
| There are too many elective courses | 4% |
| Fewer credits should be required for graduation | 3% |
| Standards for passing courses should be lowered | 3% |

**FACTORS WHICH WOULD HELP RAISE NATIONAL LEVEL OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Periodic evaluation of teachers | 69% |
| Periodic evaluation of school administrators | 60% |
| More parental involvement in their children's academic activities | 58% |
| Raise teacher qualification standards | 58% |
| Significantly increase federal/state funding to schools | 55% |
| Raise teacher salaries | 51% |
| Reduce class size | 45% |
| Require students to pass competency tests to prove they are learning | 34% |
| Raise passing grade standards | 26% |
| Allow members of business and industry to teach in secondary schools | 21% |
| Stricter school rules | 21% |
| Increase number of credits required to graduate | 16% |
| Increase number of required courses | 12% |
| Less strict school rules | 11% |
| Lengthen school year | 4% |
| Lengthen school day | 4% |

**ATTITUDES TOWARD GRADING:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Grade fairly and appropriately | 48% |
| Are inconsistent in their grading | 32% |
| Are too easy on students academically | 22% |
| Grade too high for the quality of work done by students | 9% |
| Grade too low for the quality of work done by students | 8% |
| Are too tough on students academically | 6% |

**ATTITUDES TOWARD STUDENT DISCIPLINE:**

| | |
|---|---|
| I favor expulsion of chronically disruptive students | 62% |
| Disciplinary problems are normal in every school system | 56% |
| Searching students' personal belongings is a violation of students' right to privacy | 48% |
| Schools should enact stricter rules and regulations to control student violence and vandalism | 44% |
| Student discipline is parental responsibility | 34% |
| Disruptive students should be placed in special programs or transferred to other schools | 31% |
| Community police should take an active role in disciplining student criminal offenses | 30% |
| Open campus policies encourage disruptive student behavior | 9% |



NOTE: Where percentages do not add up to 100%, the difference indicates "No Answer." Percentages rounded to nearest whole number.

Over, please . . .

## COLLEGE CAREER PLANS

**PLANS FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Attend college right away | 91% |
| Get a part-time job | 41% |
| Travel | 12% |
| Get married | 12% |
| Get a full-time job | 6% |
| Attend college sometime in the future, but not right away | 5% |
| Enter military service | 5% |
| Start (or continue) my own business | 3% |
| Undecided | 3% |
| Enroll in a technical school | 3% |
| Other | 2% |
| Join the family business | 1% |
| I don't plan to attend college | 1% |

**FIELD OF STUDY STUDENTS WILL PURSUE IN COLLEGE:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Business | 19% |
| Engineering/Sciences | 17% |
| Medicine, Pre-med | 16% |
| Undecided | 14% |
| Other | 10% |
| Teaching | 9% |
| Journalism/Communications | 7% |
| Law, Pre-law | 7% |
| Liberal Arts | 7% |
| Performing Arts | 5% |
| Mathematics | 5% |
| Computer Science | 5% |
| Fine Arts | 4% |
| Government | 3% |
| Agriculture | 1% |
| Theology/Ministry | 1% |

**MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS IN SELECTING A COLLEGE:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Scope and type of curriculum | 48% |
| Academic emphasis of school | 47% |
| Financial | 42% |
| Availability of scholarships and other forms of financial assistance | 39% |
| Location | 37% |
| Reputation of school | 36% |
| Quality of life found on campus | 29% |
| Size | 14% |
| Admission requirements | 12% |

**CONSIDERATIONS MOST AFFECTED BY:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Visit to school | 47% |
| Reading school catalog and brochures | 41% |
| Conference with representative from the school | 27% |
| Parents' influence | 22% |
| Recommendation of friends, brother/sister | 19% |
| Recommendation of high school counselor | 19% |
| Other | 11% |

## SOCIAL ISSUES

**FAMILY**

**TEENS WHOSE PARENTS TALKED OPENLY AND HONESTLY WITH THEM ABOUT:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Alcohol | 64% |
| Drugs | 56% |
| Sex | 45% |
| No answer | 28% |

**FRIENDSHIP**

**WHO TEENS CONFIDE IN MOST:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Female friends | 38% |
| Mother | 36% |
| Male friends | 19% |
| Boyfriend/girlfriend | 19% |
| Father | 10% |
| Sister | 10% |
| Brother | 6% |
| I do not confide in others | 6% |
| Teachers | 4% |
| Relatives | 4% |
| Religious leader | 3% |
| Guidance counselor | 2% |
| Grandparents | 2% |

**FRIENDS INFLUENCE ATTITUDE TOWARD:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Social activities | 63% |
| Appearance | 57% |
| Social behavior | 49% |
| Dating | 42% |
| School | 30% |
| Lifestyle | 27% |
| Drugs and alcohol | 26% |
| Studying | 25% |
| Sex | 24% |
| Music | 22% |
| College | 21% |
| Parents | 11% |
| No answer | 8% |
| Religion | 7% |
| Politics | 5% |

**CHARACTERISTICS IMPORTANT IN FRIENDS:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Reliability, trustworthiness | 86% |
| Honesty | 82% |
| Good sense of humor | 79% |
| Sensitivity to others' feelings | 77% |
| Mutual interests | 61% |
| Intelligence | 52% |
| I don't look for specific characteristics, my friends are all different | 13% |
| Similar religious beliefs | 12% |
| Attractiveness | 12% |
| Similar background | 12% |
| Popularity | 7% |

**STUDENTS WHO WOULD NOT WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE WHO:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Is a liar | 82% |
| Steals | 74% |
| Takes drugs | 68% |
| Is not loyal | 67% |
| Is selfish | 58% |
| Is homosexual | 48% |
| Is disrespectful to parents and/or teachers | 46% |
| Cheats | 42% |
| Drinks | 28% |
| Is unambitious | 23% |
| Is unattractive | 3% |
| Is of a different religion | 1% |
| Is younger than them | 1% |

**TEENS WHO MAKE FRIENDS EASILY** .. 86%

**REASONS TEENS DON'T MAKE FRIENDS EASILY:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Afraid others won't like them | 45% |
| Don't think they have much in common with other teens | 33% |
| Don't know why | 28% |
| Afraid others won't like their appearance | 17% |
| Too busy | 13% |
| Don't feel a need for friends | 6% |

## SUICIDE

**FACTORS TEENS FEEL CONTRIBUTE MOST TO TEEN SUICIDE:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Feeling of personal worthlessness | 84% |
| Feeling of isolation and loneliness | 81% |
| Pressure to achieve | 75% |
| Fear of failure | 64% |
| Lack of communication between teens and parents | 62% |
| Drug and alcohol use | 62% |
| Actual failure | 54% |
| Lack of attention from parents | 54% |
| Lack of stability in the family | 52% |
| Fear for personal future | 40% |
| Unwanted pregnancy | 34% |
| Divorce | 27% |
| Sexual problems | 22% |
| Media coverage of teen suicides | 15% |
| Financial concerns | 14% |

**TEEN SUICIDE CAN MOST EFFECTIVELY BE PREVENTED THROUGH:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Suicide awareness programs for teens and parents in schools, churches and other groups | 67% |
| Suicide/crisis prevention hotlines | 65% |
| Availability of private counseling in schools | 59% |
| More involvement of parents with teachers and counselors | 46% |
| Suicide prevention public education such as "ads" and specials on TV | 36% |
| Suicide prevention teacher training programs | 36% |
| Periodic student psychological evaluations in schools | 24% |
| Required meetings for all students with their guidance counselors on a regular basis | 18% |

**TEENS' EXPERIENCE WITH SUICIDE:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Know of a young person who has tried to commit or has committed suicide | 48% |
| Have a friend who has talked about committing suicide | 40% |
| Have considered it | 33% |
| Know of no one who has talked about it or tried it | 23% |
| Know of an adult who has tried to commit or has committed suicide | 20% |
| Has tried committing suicide | 3% |

## SEXUAL ISSUES

**ATTITUDES TOWARD SCHOOLS' SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMS:**

| | |
|---|---|
| We have discussed sexually transmitted diseases in school classes | 57% |
| Sex education is included as part of a health or other class | 56% |
| We have discussed abortion in school classes | 43% |
| We have discussed marriage and the family in school classes | 43% |
| My school does not have a sex education program/class | 36% |
| I've gained a general understanding of human sexuality from a school course | 26% |
| There is a special class devoted to sex, marriage and family in my school | 26% |
| My school has provided information about birth control | 25% |
| There is a special class devoted to sex only | 4% |
| I do not know if my school has a sex education program | 3% |

**ROLE PARENTS/GUARDIANS PLAY IN SEX EDUCATION:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Feel they can ask parents anything about sex and they will be open and honest | 42% |
| Would rather not discuss sex with parents | 39% |
| Have discussed marriage/family as they relate to sex | 38% |
| Have discussed abortion | 33% |
| Have discussed birth control | 31% |
| Do not feel they can talk to parents about sex | 30% |
| Have discussed sexually transmitted diseases | 27% |

| | |
|---|---|
| Have given them books on the subject | 20% |
| Have never discussed sex with parents | 15% |
| Have attempted to discuss sex with parents, but they provided little useful information | 5% |
| Have attempted to discuss sex with parents, but they refused to discuss it | 1% |

**TEENS WHO DON'T BELIEVE SEX IS AN EXPECTED PART OF A STEADY ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP** ..... 61%

**TEENS WHO HAVE GONE STEADY AND FELT PRESSURED TO HAVE SEX** ..... 23%

**WHERE PRESSURE TO HAVE SEX CAME FROM:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Boyfriend/girlfriend | 76% |
| Friends/peers | 34% |
| Media, movies, TV, videos, books, etc. | 15% |
| Other | 7% |
| Brothers/sisters | 1% |

**TEENS WHO HAVE NEVER HAD SEXUAL INTERCOURSE** ..... 73%

**IF HAD SEX, NUMBER WHO WISH THEY HADN'T** ..... 20%

**IF HAD SEX, HOW OFTEN PROTECTED BY BIRTH CONTROL:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Every time | 43% |
| Usually | 29% |
| Never | 16% |
| Occasionally | 12% |

**OPINIONS OF POLICIES REQUIRING PARENTS BE NOTIFIED WHEN TEENS SEEK CONTRACEPTIVES:**

| | |
|---|---|
| It will result in more teen pregnancies because teens won't seek contraceptive help, but will still have sex | 46% |
| Don't approve. Such policies are an invasion of teens' right to privacy | 42% |
| Do approve of such policies | 18% |
| Undecided | 16% |
| Such policies will stop teens from having sex | 6% |

**ATTITUDES TOWARD ABORTION:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Approve of abortion only in cases of rape, incest or when the mother's life is endangered | 43% |
| Abortion violates the right to life of an unborn fetus | 42% |
| Do not approve of such an amendment | 32% |
| Would approve of a constitutional amendment that would make abortion illegal except in cases of rape, incest or when the mother's life is endangered | 30% |
| Would consider abortion if involved in a pregnancy | 30% |
| Do not approve of abortion under any circumstances | 27% |
| Approve of abortion whenever a woman feels it is in her best interest | 23% |
| Approve of a constitutional amendment that would make abortion illegal in the U.S. | 18% |
| Approve of abortion whenever a woman feels it is in her best interest, but only during the first trimester | 17% |

**OPINIONS OF POLICIES REQUIRING PARENTS BE NOTIFIED WHEN UNDERAGE FEMALES SEEK ABORTION:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Such policies should include the male responsible for the pregnancy | 49% |
| Approve of such policies | 43% |
| Such policies will encourage teens to seek contraceptive help | 38% |
| Such policies will result in more teens running away rather than facing family and friends | 37% |
| Such policies violate teens' right to privacy | 29% |
| Such policies will result in more teens turning to their parents for advice | 27% |
| Such policies will result in pregnant teens having their babies | 25% |
| Such policies will discourage teens from having sex | 16% |

**FOR FEMALES, OPTIONS CHOSEN IF BECAME PREGNANT:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Undecided | 35% |
| Have the baby and raise it with the father if he would marry me | 22% |
| Have the baby and put it up for adoption | 20% |
| Have the baby and raise it myself | 16% |
| Have an abortion | 12% |

**FOR MALES, OPTIONS CHOSEN IF RESPONSIBLE FOR PREGNANCY:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Undecided | 29% |
| Encourage her to have the baby and put it up for adoption | 21% |
| Encourage her to keep the baby and I would help support them | 20% |
| Marry her and raise the baby together | 17% |
| Encourage her to have an abortion | 15% |
| Raise the baby myself if the mother doesn't want the child | 8% |
| Break off my relationship with her | 1% |

## DRUGS/ALCOHOL

**THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER TRIED DRUGS:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Marijuana | 82% |
| Cocaine | 95% |
| "Crack" | 96% |
| Angel Dust (PCP) | 96% |
| LSD/Hallucinogens | 95% |
| Speed/Amphetamines | 91% |
| Barbiturates/Quaaludes | 95% |
| Alcohol | 31% |

**OPINIONS OF ALCOHOL USE AMONG PEERS:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Alcohol is a regular part of many students' weekend activities | 77% |
| Alcohol is very common at parties given by my fellow students | 74% |
| There is little alcohol use during school hours | 61% |
| There is little alcohol use before school | 42% |
| Alcohol is not common at school-sponsored events | 34% |
| Alcohol is very common at school-sponsored functions such as football games and dances | 33% |
| Alcohol use at parties is only common with a certain group of students | 25% |
| A certain group of students regularly uses alcohol before school | 16% |
| A certain group of students regularly uses alcohol during school hours | 10% |
| There is a lot of alcohol use before school | 6% |
| There is a lot of alcohol use during school hours | 4% |

**OPINIONS OF PEERS' DRUG USE:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Drug use at parties is only common with a certain group of students | 56% |
| There is little drug use during school hours | 50% |
| Drug use is not common at school-sponsored events | 45% |
| There is little drug use before school | 34% |
| Drugs are a regular part of many students' weekend activites | 32% |
| A certain group of students regularly uses drugs before school | 31% |
| A certain group of students regularly uses drugs during school hours | 23% |
| Drugs are very common at parties given by my fellow students | 17% |
| There is a lot of drug use before school | 11% |
| Drugs are very common at school-sponsored functions such as football games and dances | 10% |
| There is a lot of drug use during school hours | 9% |

**SUGGESTIONS FOR DEALING WITH DRUG OFFENDERS ON HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUSES:**

| | |
|---|---|
| They should be required to attend special rehabilitation classes/programs | 71% |
| Their parents should be required to meet with school officials and faculty | 67% |
| They should be suspended | 53% |
| All their campus privileges should be suspended | 36% |
| They should be expelled | 27% |
| They should be required to speak before classes about the dangers of drug use | 20% |
| School should not play a role in punishing student drug offenders; it should be left to the municipal justice system | 9% |
| They should be transferred to another school | 4% |

**PARENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS TEENS DRINKING ALCOHOL:**

| | |
|---|---|
| My parents disapprove of teens drinking | 70% |
| My parents trust me to decide when it's appropriate for me to drink | 43% |
| My parents forbid me to drink | 34% |
| My parents forbid me to attend parties where alcohol will be served | 24% |
| My parents forbid me to drink outside our home | 24% |
| My parents approve of teens drinking only when chaperoned by an adult | 12% |
| Don't know how my parents feel about teens drinking | 5% |
| Parents have served alcoholic beverages to my friends and me | 5% |
| Parents have bought alcohol for my friends and me | 3% |
| Parents allow me to host parties where alcohol is served | 2% |

## RELIGION

**TEENS WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES TO BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF CHURCH/SYNAGOGUE** ..... 52%

**FREQUENCY OF ATTENDING RELIGIOUS SERVICES:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Weekly or more | 57% |
| More than once a month | 13% |
| Holidays and special occasions | 13% |
| Never | 9% |
| Less than once a month | 7% |

**ATTITUDES TOWARD PRAYER IN U.S. PUBLIC SCHOOLS:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Prayer should not be required, but should be allowed | 72% |

If prayer is allowed, it should be non-denominational that does not discriminate against any religious group ... 43%
Prayer in public schools does not violate the separation of church and state ... 38%
If prayer is required, it should include mention of God ... 23%
Prayer in public schools violates the separation of church and state ... 19%
Prayer should be required, but students who do not wish to pray should be excused from it ... 18%
Decision to include prayer or not should be made by each school district ... 15%
Prayer should not be allowed in public schools ... 11%
Prayer should be required in public schools ... 6%

**APPROVE OF POLITICAL LEADERS INCORPORATING RELIGIOUS BELIEFS IN GOVERNING DECISIONS:** ... 45%

## POLITICS

**HOW THEY RATE JOB PRESIDENT REAGAN IS DOING:**

**Economy**
Excellent ... 13%
Good ... 54%
Below average ... 20%
Poor ... 8%

**Foreign Policy**
Excellent ... 9%
Good ... 33%
Below average ... 32%
Poor ... 20%

**Domestic Policy**
Excellent ... 9%
Good ... 55%
Below average ... 22%
Poor ... 7%

**Defense**
Excellent ... 25%
Good ... 40%
Below average ... 15%
Poor ... 14%

**Education**
Excellent ... 9%
Good ... 42%
Below average ... 29%
Poor ... 14%

**Politics**
Excellent ... 15%
Good ... 49%
Below average ... 19%
Poor ... 10%

**HOW THEY WOULD VOTE IF 1988 ELECTION WERE HELD TODAY (MOST WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THAT ELECTION):**
Democratic ... 30%
Republican ... 42%
Independent ... 18%
Would not vote ... 3%

**WHAT THEY FEEL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S TOP THREE PRIORITIES SHOULD BE IN COMING YEARS REGARDING DOMESTIC ISSUES:**
Reduce the deficit; balance the budget ... 70%
Reduce unemployment ... 60%
Improve education system ... 60%

**THOSE WHO FAVOR ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND U.S.S.R.** ... 85%

**THOSE WHO BELIEVE:**
The U.S.S.R. would honor such an agreement ... 39%
The U.S. would honor such an agreement ... 59%

**ATTITUDES TOWARD NUCLEAR ARMS:**
U.S.S.R. and U.S. should ban all use and production of nuclear arms ... 58%
Production of nuclear arms should be frozen at present levels ... 51%
"Star Wars" system is a viable defense for the U.S. and should be employed ... 39%
American security would be reduced if we produce fewer nuclear weapons ... 25%
Favor the production of nuclear arms for deterrence ... 24%
U.S. should ban all use and production of nuclear arms regardless of the U.S.S.R. stance ... 10%
Favor the use of nuclear arms for warfare ... 5%

**WHEN TEENS FEEL THE U.S. SHOULD TAKE MILITARY ACTION IN CONFLICTS OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS:**
Lives of American citizens are endangered ... 88%
U.S. ally is threatened ... 59%
Strategic minerals or vital U.S. economic interests are threatened ... 41%
Democratic government asks for aid ... 37%
Government is violating American conceptions of human rights ... 35%
When any government asks for aid ... 14%
When U.S.S.R. is supplying aid to a faction engaged in the conflict ... 14%
Communist or socialist government asks for aid ... 7%
The U.S. should never intervene in the conflicts of foreign governments ... 6%

**THOSE WHO BELIEVE THE U.S. SHOULD NOT SUPPORT GOVERNMENTS WHICH OPPOSE COMMUNISM YET VIOLATE AMERICAN CONCEPTIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS:** ... 75%

**WHEN A TERRORIST ACT OCCURS AND AMERICAN LIVES ARE TAKEN, THE U.S. SHOULD:**
Demand prosecution of the terrorists by the appropriate government ... 71%
Remove all U.S. citizens from the region where the terrorist act occured ... 58%
Retaliate through embargos and/or other trade sanctions against the government giving refuge to terrorists ... 55%
Increase U.S. military presence in the region ... 33%
Retaliate through an act of force ... 31%
Do nothing ... 1%

Another service for students and educators from:

™ Who's Who Among American High School Students®

**Educational Communications, Inc.**
721 N. McKinley Road • Lake Forest, IL 60045

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